



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

**Department of Education
& Early Development**

ASSESSMENTS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

801 W 10th Street, Suite 303
Juneau, Alaska 99802-0122
Main: 907.465.2800
Fax: 907.465.4156

September 15, 2014

Dear Parent or Guardian:

On May 13, 2014, Governor Parnell signed into law a comprehensive education bill – The Alaska Education Opportunity Act. One part of this law repeals the High School Graduation Qualifying Examination (HSGQE) and provides funding for all students to take a College- or Career-Readiness Assessment (CCRA). The approved career-readiness assessment is Workkeys; the approved college-readiness assessments are the ACT or the SAT. Students choose which assessment best fits their post-secondary path.

The State of Alaska will pay for one administration of one assessment per student starting in grade 11. Public high school students may take the assessment during the scheduled school day administration or the designated Saturday National Test day administration.

All grade 11 students are required to take a CCRA; students who miss the opportunity in grade 11 may take an assessment in grade 12. Please note: all grade 11 students in the 2013-14 school year were required to take the WorkKeys assessment. These students have met the new requirement for earning an Alaska high school diploma and do not need to take an additional CCRA. Current grade 12 students who did not take the WorkKeys assessment will need to take their choice of a CCRA to be eligible for a diploma.

- Students **choose** which of the three assessments they will take. School counselors and teachers will share information with students on the difference between the tests. The following websites provide parent information for each assessment:
 - WorkKeys: <http://www.act.org/path/parent/tests/workkeys.html>
 - ACT: <http://www.act.org/path/parent>
 - SAT: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/for-parents>
- The paid assessments are scheduled for the following dates:
 - WorkKeys Internet Testing November 10, 2014 – February 13, 2015
 - WorkKeys Paper/Pencil Testing March 4 or April 1, 2015
 - ACT In-School Day – March 3 or March 31, 2015
 - ACT National Test Day – Saturday, February 7, 2015
 - SAT School Day – February 25 or April 29, 2015
 - SAT National Test Day – Saturday, January 24, 2015
- Minimum scores are not required for high school graduation.

- The Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) also requires students to take WorkKeys, the SAT or the ACT. The APS has different requirements regarding student scores. Please visit <http://aps.alaska.gov> for more information on qualifying for the APS.

For more information or questions regarding this new requirement, please contact your high school guidance counselor or principal. Further information is also available at <http://education.alaska.gov/tls/assessment/ccra.html> or by contacting the CCRA project coordinator, Shari Paul, at shari.paul@alaska.gov or 465-6535.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erik McCormick". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Erik" and last name "McCormick" clearly distinguishable.

Erik McCormick
Director
Assessment, Accountability &
Information Management
Alaska Dept. of Education &
Early Development